WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scanner comprising:

a transport mechanism for moving a document;

a sensor for detecting a leading edge and trailing edge of said document;

wherein said sensor turns off a drive mechanism when a leading edge of said document is detected and starts a drive mechanism when a trailing edge of said document is detected;

a camera for scanning said document and detecting a skew angle of a leading edge and a skew angle of a trailing edge of said document; and

a front-end controller which receives a digital signal from said camera and detects said document in a field of said camera within a specified range of pixels.

2. A scanner as in claim 1 comprising:

a micro controller which activates said camera for image capture only during the presence of said document in said camera field.

3. A scanner as in claim 1 wherein said front-end controller and said camera are a single unit.

4. A scanner as in claim 2 wherein said front end controller is comprised of hardware and software.

5. A scanner comprising:

a transport mechanism for moving a document;

a sensor for detecting a leading edge and trailing edge of said document;

wherein said sensor turns off a drive mechanism when a leading of said document is detected and starts a drive mechanism when a trailing edge of said document is detected;

a first camera for scanning said document and detecting a skew angle of a leading edge and a skew angle of a trailing edge of said document; and

a front-end controller which receives a digital signal from said first camera and detects said document in a field of said first camera within a specified range of pixels.

6. A scanner as in claim 5 comprising:

a micro controller which activates said first camera for image capture only during the presence of said document in said first camera field.

7. A scanner as in claim 5 wherein said front-end controller and said first camera are a single unit.

8. A scanner as in claim 5 wherein said front end controller is comprised of hardware and software.

9. A scanner as in claim 1 wherein said scanner comprises an automatic document feeder.

10. A method of scanning a document comprising:

transporting a document past a sensor;

sensing a leading edge of said document;

turning off a drive mechanism when said leading edge of said document is detected;

sensing a trailing edge of said document;

starting said drive mechanism when said trailing edge of said document is detected;

scanning said document with a camera;

detecting a skew angle of said leading edge and said trailing edge of said document; and

capturing an image of said document when said document is in front of said camera.

11. A platen scanner comprising:

a platen for holding a document on a surface of said platen;

a movable camera below said platen for capturing an image of said document;

a start label detectable by said camera which activates said camera for capturing an image of said document when said camera is moving in a first direction; and

a home label for stopping motion of said camera when said camera is moving in a second direction.

12. A platen scanner as in claim 11 wherein said start label contains information relating to said platen which is captured by said camera.

13. A platen scanner as in claim 11 wherein said home label deactivates a drive mechanism for said camera at a predetermined distance from a home position.

14. A platen scanner as in claim 11 wherein a micro controller returns said camera to a home position after image capture.

15. A scanner comprising:

a transport mechanism for moving a document;

a sensor for detecting a leading edge and trailing edge of said document;

wherein said sensor turns off a drive mechanism when a leading edge of said document is detected and starts a drive mechanism when a trailing edge of said document is detected;

a camera for scanning said document and detecting a skew angle of a leading edge of said document; and

a front-end controller which receives a digital signal from said camera and detects said document in a field of said camera within a specified range of pixels.

16. A scanner comprising:

a transport mechanism for moving a document;

a sensor for detecting a leading edge and trailing edge of said document;

wherein said sensor turns off a drive mechanism when a leading edge of said document is detected and starts a drive mechanism when a trailing edge of said document is detected;

a camera for scanning said document and detecting a skew angle of a trailing edge of said document; and

a front-end controller which receives a digital signal from said camera and detects said document in a field of said camera within a specified range of pixels.